BUDGET RESOLUTION/Tax Relief & Debt Cuts With Any Additional Surplus

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 2000-2009 . . . S.Con. Res. 20. Domenici motion to waive the Budget Act for the consideration of the Crapo/Grams amendment No. 163.

ACTION: MOTION REJECTED, 42-57

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S.Con. Res. 20, the Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 2000-2009: will cut the debt held by the public (money that the Federal Government owes to creditors other than itself) in half over 10 years; will fully fund Medicare (all of the President's proposed \$9 billion in Medicare cuts were rejected; as a result, this budget will allow \$20.4 billion more in Medicare spending over the next 10 years); will save the entire \$1.8 trillion in Social Security surpluses over the next 10 years for Social Security; will provide for \$778 billion in net tax relief over the next 10 years (in contrast, the President's budget would increase the tax burden by \$96 billion net over 10 years), and will adhere to the spending restraints (discretionary spending caps and pay-go provisions) of the bipartisan budget agreement as enacted in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and the Taxpayer Reform Act of 1997 (the President's proposed budget, in contrast, would dramatically increase spending in violation of that bipartisan agreement, and would result in \$2.2 trillion more in total Federal debt at the end of 10 years than proposed in this Senate budget).

The Crapo/Grams amendment would create a new "lockbox" point of order against using any on-budget surpluses in excess of the on-budget surpluses currently predicted for anything other than tax relief or debt reduction. It would take a three-fifths majority vote to waive that point of order.

After debate, Senator Lautenberg raised a point of order that the amendment violated section 305(b)(2) (the germaneness requirement) of the Budget Act. Senator Domenici then moved to waive the Budget Act for the consideration of the amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to waive favored the amendment; those opposing the motion to waive opposed the amendment.

NOTE: A three-fifths majority (60) vote is required to waive the Budget Act. After the vote, the point of order was upheld and the amendment thus fell.

(See other side)

YEAS (42)			NAYS (57)			NOT VOTING (1)	
Republicans Democrats (42 or 78%) (0 or 0%)		Republicans	Democrats		Republicans Democrats		
		(0 or 0%)	(12 or 22%)	(45 or 100%)		(1)	(0)
Abraham Allard Ashcroft Bennett Brownback Bunning Burns Campbell Cochran Coverdell Craig Crapo DeWine Enzi Fitzgerald Frist Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hagel	Hatch Helms Hutchinson Hutchison Inhofe Kyl Lott Mack McConnell Murkowski Nickles Roth Santorum Sessions Shelby Smith, Bob Thomas Thompson Thurmond Voinovich Warner		Bond Chafee Collins Domenici Gorton Jeffords Lugar Roberts Smith, Gordon Snowe Specter Stevens	Akaka Baucus Bayh Biden Bingaman Boxer Breaux Bryan Byrd Cleland Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Durbin Edwards Feingold Feinstein Graham Harkin Hollings Inouye Johnson	Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Landrieu Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Lincoln Mikulski Moynihan Murray Reed Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Schumer Torricelli Wellstone Wyden	EXPLANAT 1—Official H 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annou AN—Annou PY—Paired PN—Paired	ly Absent nced Yea nced Nay Yea

VOTE NO. 73 MARCH 25, 1999

Those favoring the motion to waive contended: